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Slovakia

Poultry and Products

Slovakia Announces Two Cases of Avian Influenza in Dead Birds

2006

Approved by:

Quintin Gray
U.S Embassy

Prepared by:

Jana Mikulasova

Report Highlights:

The State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovakia announced that on February 20, 2006 the State Veterinary Institute in Zvolen detected (in rapid tests) Avian Influenza H5 in two dead wild birds. The samples have been sent to the reference laboratory in the United Kingdom. Slovakia expects to obtain the results from the reference laboratory by the end of the week. The test will confirm whether or not the virus is H5N1.

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The first sample came from a dead grebe found on February 17 in Vlcie Hrdlo, which is on the outskirts of Bratislava. For detail see following picture.



Source: State Veterinary and Food Administration, Slovakia; <http://www.svssr.sk/>

The second sample came from a falcon that was found dead on February 20 in Gabčíkovo, near Danube River. For more details on the location see the following picture.



Source: State Veterinary and Food Administration, Slovakia; <http://www.svssr.sk/>

Protective measures to prevent the spread of the disease were taken immediately. Protection zone of 3 km and surveillance zone of 10 km around the above mentioned places of finding were established, as seen in the pictures. No live poultry or poultry meat can leave these areas. Domestic poultry must be kept inside. Movement of poultry and other captive birds is forbidden for a minimum of 15 days. Relevant EU regulations apply.

The State Veterinary and Food Administration started an epizootologic survey in areas where the infected birds were found. Veterinarians started searching for dead animals or animals showing signs of disease.

The State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovakia continue giving AI information to the general public and farmers. The Slovak Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovakia established a special hotline for Avian Influenza.

On February 15, 2006 the Slovak Government approved a new pandemic plan. The plan allocates 358 million Slovak Crowns for the purchase of medicines and vaccinations against Avian Influenza. The plan also guarantees one million pieces of human protecting hygienic materials.